

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 18 are hereby amended. Accordingly, after entry of this Amendment under 35 U.S.C. §1.312, claims 1-2, 6-7, 11, and 14-26 will remain pending.

Applicant would like to express appreciation for the courtesies extended by Examiner Bernatz to Applicant's representative during the interview conducted on July 24, 2006 (hereinafter the "Interview"). The substance of the interview is incorporated into the remarks below and constitutes Applicant's record of the interview.

This Amendment under 35 U.S.C. §1.312 is intended to correct an error that was inadvertently made in the Proposed Amendment dated April 12, 2006. Namely, in the Proposed Amendment dated April 12, 2006, claims 1 and 18 were inadvertently amended to recite that "the second perpendicular magnetic recording layer contains the crystalline alloy in a larger amount than the first perpendicular magnetic recording layer." This claim amendment is one of the two proposed Amendments presented by the Examiner to Applicant's representative on March 24, 2006 to place the application in condition for allowance. Instead, Applicant wishes to amend claims 1 and 18 in accordance with the second proposed Amendment that was presented by the Examiner to Applicant's representative on March 24, 2006. In this second proposed Amendment, claims 1 and 18 are amended to positively recite that "the crystalline alloy consists essentially of cobalt, chromium, platinum, and optionally one or both tantalum and niobium." Applicants submitted a substitute proposed Amendment on April 17, 2006 to correct this error and to amend the claim with the second Amendment proposed by the Examiner. Unfortunately, the substitute Amendment of April 17, 2006 was not received by the Examiner until after a Notice of Allowance had already been issued in this case.

During the Interview, the Examiner proposed to amend independent claims 1 and 18 in accordance with the second proposed Amendment by way of an Amendment under 35 U.S.C. §1.312. In response, Applicant agrees with the Examiner's proposal and presents this Amendment under 35 U.S.C. §1.312 for the Examiner's review and consideration. This submission complies with the Examiner's request.

After reviewing this Amendment under 35 U.S.C. §1.312, if the Examiner has further questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative.

All of the issues having been addressed, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested.

IWASAKI ET AL. -- 10/626,837
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Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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